(3) PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRMEN.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have also, to announce to the House that, under rule 14 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I have nominated the following Members of the Council to be the Panel of Vice-Chairmen for the twentieth session of the Legislative Council under the Constitution :—

1. Sri M. Seshachariar.
2. Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar.
3. Sri L. S. Karayalar.
4. Srimathi S. Manjubhashini.

V. CALLING ATTENTION TO LARGE-SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DISTRESS PREVALENT AMONG FISHERMEN IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT AND PARTS OF TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 42 (1) of the Madras Council Rules I seek your permission to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the large-scale unemployment since January 1962 and the economic distress prevalent among fishermen in the Kanyakumari district and parts of Tirunelveli district and the necessity for immediate relief measures to alleviate their sufferings.

THE HON. SRI N. NALLASENAPATHI SARKARAI MANRADIAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our fishermen in the coastal villages are dependent on the sea for their livelihood and they go out to the sea for fishing. The best season for fishing along the coast of Kanyakumari is July to October when very good catches are expected. In the Tirunelveli district, the favourable season for fishing is July to February. During the normal years the fishermen tide over the lean period with the savings they would have made during the favourable period and with the accumulated dry fish savings. The catches during the lean period may not be adequate to maintain a family. Usually, during these lean months, their habits tend to be frugal while they slacken them in the fat months of the year.

Duing the year 1961, there was a failure of fishery during the best season because of the unprecedented floods in May and the altered seasonal conditions. As the export of fish to Ceylon had also been cut down, the fishermen were badly affected. Consequently, there were scarcity conditions among the fishermen when the lean period commenced.

The Collector of Kanyakumari reported that scarcity conditions due to dearth of fish catches were prevalent in three taluks in Kanyakumari district, namely, Kalkulam, Vilavankode and Agastheeswaram, and he recommended measures for providing relief to the fishermen families. Accordingly the Government approved of an agreement to distribute to 12,340 fishermen families for a month at two measures of rice and fifty naye Paise